

heliciform *Vertigo* and by a large *Succinea*, also taken by Mr. Blanford, who will probably describe them together with a large *Helix* allied to *H. Bajadera*, Pfr.

Cheltenham, Feb. 5, 1864.

XXIV.—*Description of a Labyrinthibranchiate Fish from the Nile.*

By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER.

A VERY fine collection of fishes made on the Upper Nile, at Chartoum and Gondokoro, by Consul John Petherick, contained, among other novelties, a species of Labyrinthibranchiate fish belonging to the genus *Ctenopoma*, Peters, species of which have hitherto been found only in Southern and Eastern Africa, where they represent the East-Indian *Anabas*.

*Ctenopoma Petherici.*

D.  $\frac{18}{10}$ , or  $\frac{16}{9}$ , or  $\frac{15}{9}$ . A.  $\frac{10}{9-11}$ . L. lat. 29. L. transv.  $\frac{3 \text{ or } 3\frac{1}{2}}{9}$ .

The height of the body is one-third, or a little more than one-third, of the total length (without caudal); the maxillary extends to below, or but slightly beyond, the anterior margin of the eye. Teeth in the jaws and on the palate in narrow bands. The diameter of the eye equals the extent of the snout. Five series of scales between the orbit and the angle of the præoperculum, the outer series covering the præopercular margin. Operculum, inter-, and suboperculum strongly serrated. The soft rays of the vertical fins covered with small scales. Brownish olive; many scales with a brown central spot, these spots being less distinct in old specimens than in young ones; a round black spot, sometimes edged with whitish, on the root of the tail.

The largest specimen is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

This species is more nearly allied to *C. multispine* than to *C. microlepidotum*, but may be readily distinguished by its deeper body, by its narrower mouth, the maxillary extending to below the middle of the eye in *C. multispine*, &c.

The same collection contained examples of *Ophiocephalus obscurus*, Gthr., described from West-African specimens, and a complete series of *Clarotes*, showing that this genus has been founded by Hyrtl and Kner on a deformed specimen, and that the species has been long ago named *Pimelodus laticeps* by Rüppell, the development of the rays and of the spine of the adipous fin being dependent on age.